

CLAIMS

1. A bioabsorbable surgical sponge operable for the intraoperative absorption of blood from within an open surgical site within a patient, the surgical sponge comprising a porous body consisting of a bioabsorbable material.
2. The bioabsorbable surgical sponge of claim 1 wherein said bioabsorbable material is hydrophilic.
3. The bioabsorbable surgical sponge of claim 1 wherein said bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polymers or copolymers of lactide, glycolide, caprolactone, polydioxanone, trimethylene carbonate, polyorthoesters and polyethylene oxide, collagen, chondroitin, chitin and chitosan.